SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1913.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second

Class Mall Matter. Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid. DAILY, Per Month .. SUNDAY, Per Year 2 50 DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year ...... 8 50 DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month ......

Postage to foreign countries added All checks, money orders, &c., to be made pay while to Tuy Ses

THE EVENING SUN, Per Month......

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Published daily, including Sunday, by the Sun President and Treasurer, William C. Reick, 170 170 Nassau street; Secretary, C. E. Luxton, 170

London office, Effingham House, 1 Arundel Paris office, 6 Rue de la Michedière, off Rue du atre Septembre. Washington office, Hibbs Building.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts and ed they must in all cases send stamps

Brooklyn office, 106 Livingston street,

### The Land Navy.

More power to the Hon. JOSEPHUS Daniels's elbow if he has gone to work in earnest to break up the system of unavowed favoritism and intrigue for the avoidance of sea duty which has long operated to the detriment of our naval service.

This country has the finest navy officers in the world, but a few of them devote too large a part of their professional abilities to the business of keeping away from the water.

"This Department," says the new Secretary, "amounts to nothing unless it promotes the efficiency of the service at sea. I want to lay the emphasis hereafter upon sea service rather than on shore duty, especially shore duty close to this desk of mine."

More power, we say again, to the Hon. Josephus Daniels's elbow. More power, indeed, to both his elbows!

## Responsibility for the Floods. Senator Francis G. Newlands of

Nevada has anticipated a Congressional inquiry into the causes of the great the Federal Government responsible. Mr. NEWLANDS exclaims that adequate provision was not made for the supervision of the headwaters of rivers, and declares that dams should have been built instead of levees, which he regards burg and Dayton," the Senator says, "are as much entitled to protection as are those living in the delta section of the Mississippi," and he trusts that "these floods will arouse the American conscience.

but declares it would not have saved sembling of Congress on April 7. could have been built by the hand of ticularly sanguine as to his prospects

exceeded all known records

The topography of the country must be taken into account. Both valleys, resentatives, and reads: the Miami particularly, are veined with streams tributary to the rivers, and in times of flood the water rises with amazing rapidity and spreads far and wide over the valley floor. The level character of the region in which Dayton itself lies and the fact that there is not off the water accounts for the depth and extent of the floods. Dayton has had many of them. What Congress can do to prevent or minimize them in future by putting the army engineers to work to construct dams for the collection and restraint of waters in the valleys north of the threatened cities must be done, whatever the cost. But let there be a thorough investigation by the engineers first. The Federal Government cannot be held entirely responsible even by conservationists like Senator NEWLANDS. If there is any responsibility the States must share it But a rational view is that the disasters legal phrase, an act of Gop.

# The Last Campaign of Lord Roberts.

In his eighty-first year, with unimpaired faculties, England's most eminent soldier is conducting his last campaign. Its difficulties are greater than those he encountered in fighting his way through swarming tribesmen for more than three hundred miles of rugged country to relieve Kandahar, and the saving of British prestige in the South African crisis at the eleventh hour presented less of a problem.

In his campaign to persuade his countrymen that they must submit to military service to insure England against invasion and conquest Lord ROBERTS is facing a vast incredulous and obstructive majority that derides him as an alarmist, misinterprets his message. suspects his motives, fires on him from ambush with quibble and falsehood. and worst of all, questions the veteran's

city to city is like a charge on a host. enemy

It is doubtful if such militant eloquence 2 50 strain, was an oration that any public document, else a Representative-elect orable; that they move with unerring prethe National Service League with a pose of money making.

Printing and Publishing Association at 170 Nassau illustration and a close knit logic not literary and oratorical masterpieces as street, in the Berough of Manhattan, New York. to be expected of an old soldier and a "full of steel and iron." We do not; Nassaustreet; Vice President, Edward P. Mitchell. admitted to be a disappointment and a there will be dissent from our opinion sorry failure, and yet it was organized | that there is also brass. to fight like regulars and repel invasion by Germany or any other Power. | Said Lord ROBERTS:

"It daunts the very heart of any expeor done with discipline, recognizing with rage as the masses were moved down that theirs, theirs once more, had been the 'Valor of Ignorance,' the most fatal and tragic of all forms of valor, whether in peace or war.

Yet the Territorials look like soldiers and march well, as most militia bodies do. There are men in England, Lord HAL-DANE, late Secretary for War, among them, who believe or affect to believe that the Territorials are formidable, but every army officer knows better. Led against regulars they would march to inevitable destruction. The National Service League proposes compulsory training for home and not for foreign service of all the young men of the country. The training term would be for a few months, but in that time they would be thoroughly grounded in the school of the soldier and taught how fight. They would form the National Army, which would be independent of

the regular or foreign service army. ROBERTS upon the educational and moral ample: value of the training which he declares floods in Ohio and Indiana by holding England stands in need of. Whether "Bobs" will win his last campaign against great odds is doubtful, for the valor of ment in England as it is in this country. but never did the grand old fellow make ous as another." as unscientific. "The people of Pitts- a more heroic figure in doing his duty

#### The Enterprising Spirit of a New Representative in Congress.

One of the disputed results of the election of last November is the outcome of . Once more from among many engag-If there is any responsibility to be the balloting for Representative in Coning passages: fixed it will be fixed of course, but this gress from the Nineteenth district of the indictment by Senator Newlands. upper West Side of Manhattan borough. fossilized dead hand of the reactionaries. watersheds in Indiana and Ohio where showed that Franklin Leonard, Dem- is apt to be a lunatic fringe among the vothe floods had their origin. Moreover, ocrat, had been chosen. The official taries of any forward movement. In this he is not an engineer. Mr. M. O. LEIGH- canvass gave the victory to WALTER M. recent art exhibition the lunatic fringe was TON, chief hydrographer of the Geologi- CHANDLER, Progressive. On January 15 | fully in evidence. cal Survey, who is one of the greatest Mr. LEONARD filed notice of a contest. The lunatic fringe! Colonel Roosedoes not hold the Government responsi- fraud. This charge must be investi- what remote from his previous efforts proceeds: ble for the disasters in the West. He gated by the House. Mr. CHANDLER would be notable if only for this much

the inundated towns. "No work that | Apparently Mr. CHANDLER is not parman," he says, would have prevented of holding the seat. This conclusion the floods. Great reservoirs have been is based on his secretary's correspondplanned in the Scioto and Miami river ence, a portion of which THE SUN is intention of descending on the American take could have arisen. valleys, but according to Mr. Leighton privileged to disclose to its readers, they would not have afforded protection although this fragment was originally against the inundation that has oc- designed only for the rectors and pastors sentenced with Miss Sylvia Pankhurst curred, because the rainfall was abnor- of churches throughout the land. The to two months imprisonment for smashmal, amounting to a deluge, such as particular letter to which we give this ing windows. It is most unlikely and

"HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

"WASHINGTON

"March 25, 1913. "MY DEAR SIR: The enclosed circular

matter will speak for itself. enough pitch of the land below to carry the lecture platform. The uniform and either to prison or to an asylum for the invariable rate for each lecture which he de- criminal insane, and if the British emlivers is \$100.00. We shall be glad to arrange with you for a date for your church. If your church has no lecture course, will you do us the kindness to place the enclosed ture Committee in your town?

"Mr. CHANDLER's great work on the 'Trial of the theme.

His great address upon 'The Progressive Movement-Its Aims and Destiny,' is a masterful and brilliant discussion of the in Ohio and Indiana were, to use the subject. It is marked by every feature of bitterness or prejudice. Those who do not agree with his political view are, neverthements, and are charmed by the power and beauty of his delivery.

> "If you wish to engage Mr. CHANDLER'S services in your lecture work, kindly address "Mr. SAMUEL A. FUCHS. Secretary to Congressman WALTER M

"CHANDLER, "House Office Building, Washington, D. C

"During the next twelve months," in which this enterprising orator and Health, is good enough for anybody. At statesman and author purposes to "de- the same time it must be remembered vote a part of his time to the lecture that the principal officers of the board platform," the Congress in which he is while certifying to the purity of the city now entitled to a seat will meet in extra water, insist on making the taxpayers buy ession to write Democratic doctrines in the statutes of the nation. It will meet in regular session to continue this task and to perform the routine duties of the legislative department. Its members will be too busy with public affairs him at Houston, Tex., asking for copies

frem a Lawver's Standpoint."

It had escaped general notice that one of was ever heard in England before; cer- the planks of the platform, or confession tainly not in our time. A soldier by of faith, on which he was elected was the profession, he talks like a statesman and dedication of public office to the service a prophet. His speech at Wolverhamp- of personal enterprises, at "the uniform ton in the middle of March, when three and invariable rate of \$100.00." Yet there buglers introduced him with a martial must be such a plank in that historic man in England might have been proud would not dare to use the official sta-Lord ROBERTS argued the case of tionery of the House for the vulgar pur-

valiant candor, a clearness and force | Mr. CHANDLER'S appreciative secreand finish of expression, a plenitude of tary describes one of that statesman's very old man. The Territorial Army is question his judgment, nor do we believe

The Park Roads. Even the unquestionable fact that road builders are to-day unprepared to rienced soldier to contemplate the fate of construct completely satisfactory sursuch an army; courage would avail them faces for automobile use does not exnothing-except to die; generalship would cuse the Park Department for the conavail them nothing, except to make the ditions existing on Riverside Drive and leaders realize, with vain regret or impotent in parts of Central Park, of which condespair, what things might have been dared stant complaint has been made to the Automobile Club of America. These roads have suffered as much from neglect as from anything else.

It is no defence for the authorities to point out that motor cars are heavy, that their tires have a disintegrating effect on the road material, and that traffic has become heavier. An intelligent military one, are absolutely taboo for many maintenance system would have prevented the ruin that has resulted from

what amounts to studied neglect. Nobody will pretend that roads designed to support the traffic of a quarter of a century ago are adapted to the conditions existing to-day, but nobody is so foolish as to believe that even an ideal road surface will constantly repair | With a surprise next to stupefaction the and renew itself.

# The Lunatic Fringe.

We desire to record our unaffected allow in his old days a meagre pittance. admiration of the Hon. THEODORE to shoot straight, how to camp, how to ROOSEVELT as an art critic. Nobody skirmish, how to intrench and how to has written anything about the Futurists and Cubists that is more sanely perceptive or more humorously tolerant | well known by travellers, that the majorthan the Colonel's remarks in the Out-Much stress has been laid by Lord look on the recent exhibition. For ex-

"There is no reason why people should not call themselves Cubists, or Octagonists, Isosceles Triangle, or Brothers of the Cosine ignorance is as impervious to enlighten- if they so desire; as expressing anything serious and permanent one term is as fatu

And vet:

"There was one note entirely absent, and hat was the note of the commonplace satisfied conventionality anywhere in the exhibition.

"It is vitally necessary to move forward

lectual restlessness.

embassy in London to demand that it intervene on behalf of Miss ZELIE EMERson, the militant young lady who was official stationery of the House of Rep- can embassy should concern itself in the sight affair. If American women like to mix themselves up in a matter that is none of their business and break the laws of a foreign country in doing it they must take the consequences. If Miss PANKHURST decided to celebrate her next visit to this land by walking down Fifth avenue throw- in the Highlands." "Mr. CHANDLER will devote a part of his ing stones into all the milliners' shops time, during the next twelve months, to she would certainly be arrested and sent bassy exerted itself to secure her release its action would be regarded as, to say the least of it, intrusive.

The way of the peace makers is hard. circular matter in the hands of some Lec- Mr. Winston Churchill's proposal for a happy naval holiday in 1914 has been re ceived in Germany with a storm of indigof Jesus Christ from a Lawyer's Stand- nation which bids fair to swamp a good point,' in two volumes, has made him a many of the kindly feelings that were said national and international reputation. His to have been recently established. Nevergreat lecture upon the same subject is a theless one suspects that the First Lord powerful and most fascinating presentation of the Admiralty is smiling happily to himself. He can now say to any dis-gruntled pacifist of his own party: "But you see, my dear fellow, what I tried to do, and there," pointing in the direction of the North Sea, whence come logic and elequence, and is full of steel and the result." Then he can apply himself confused sounds of distant uproar, "is ron. But it has not even a tinge of partisan to the business of making sixteen ships grow where Germany makes but ten. Mr. CHURCHILL has the reputation for less, pleased with the fairness of his argu- being very direct, but he can also be exceedingly subtle

Few persons understand how large a force of employees the Public Service Commission has, but when it sends to the Finance Department a bill of \$19.50 for special bottled drinking water the size of its staff is indicated. The folks whose money is used to pay for this water drink water, which, according to the Board of a special brand for them

We blush for those readers of THE SUN who, having read our article of March 17 about FRANK PUTNAM's studies of European and English cities, have written to patriotism. Every speech Lord Roberts to "devote" much of their time to the of his work and have neglected to en- poems.

makes in his tour of the country from lecture platform at the "uniform and in- close stamps to pay postage thereon. We variable rate of \$100,00 for each lecture," did not learn of this rudeness from Mr. He was never seen to better advantage. or for any other recompense. Because PUTNAM himself, but incidentally from He was never seen to better advantage. Or for any other recompense. Because the fights fairly and with an old fashioned courtesy to his opponents that might be termed knightly. Cool under House, for he would, of course, scorn to own expense books that strangers ask fire, undismayed by numbers as he al- steal time from the nation, even for the him to send them. It would be a good ways was, alert, spirited, smiling, in- purpose of speaking at "the uniform thing for him to quit the weed, of course. domitable, this fine old soldier makes and invariable rate of \$100,00 for each but it is humiliating to have forced on us converts every time he confronts the becure" on the "Trial of Jesus Christ the knowledge that any of our readers is so stingy or so thoughtless as thus to impose on good nature.

> Naturally the protectionist press is ins. - Charleston News and Courier A sound protection basis. See tariff: Pins not jewelry 35 per cent. ad valorem."

The great' hidden teaching of disaster is that the laws of nature are eternal and inexcision and resistless force.-Philadelphia North American

To teach at such a cost what everybody knows seems a bit superfluous

A fine garden pays for itself many times A weary smile trickles over the pinched features of the commuter. Pays for it-

self in blisters. Head blown off in lest .- Headline Irresistible, rich, rollicking humor!

Rhode Island has no statutory holiday of peculiar local interest, -Providence Journal. Then appoint and celebrate a Dorn's Day or Dorrsday.

# DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR. French Cosmopolite on the Scandalous

Stinginess of Congress. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir. cartoon "Uncle Sam: I hope you will know how to represent me properly," better than anything else that has been printed on the American ambassadorships, legations and consular service in foreign lands, tells the truth on a state of affairs which is a disgrace for the United States.

As things are now the diplomatic and consular careers, the noblest of all with the a promising young man graduated from me leading university, but with moderate means if not poor. are the Ambassadors' salaries ridiculous for a country so rich as this one, but for the em bassy staffs the situation is still worse.

Not so long ago one of the brightest men in Uncle Sam's service, one who for more than twenty years was the eminence grise of the Paris embassy, was obliged to retire for so devoted a servant of his country Fortunately he has many admirers, and it is

Sam's prestige in countries where old servitors are never forgotten. To stinginess exactly the "ladrerie" of American Congress is also due the fact, ity of its representatives in the consular of second if not third class hotels, tables d'hôte, and live in houses unfit for so dig-nified a position. In Paris, where all embassies and even most of the legations have their own palace, the United States terrior Parallelopipedonists, or Knights of the tory is dependent on a landlord's caprice The United States Ambassador is the only one without a home.

More salary for American representatives abroad and a suitable pension for those retiring after a certain number of years should be provided at HENRI DE LAFITOLE. NEW YORK, March 28.

# Lady Smith's Case.

To the Editor of The Suk-Sir: It iled, aged about 103 years and 9 months. Here is a parish register extract: "p 393 Christenings in Lowestoft A. D. 1773, May 12 Pleasance, daughter of Robert and Pleas ance Reeve. [Signed] John Arrow, Vicar. is no time for snap judgments. Such is New York, comprising a portion of the and to shake of the dead hand, often the And in the family Bible is this entry made by He probably is not familiar with the The unofficial returns on election night and yet we have to face the fact that there ance was delivered of a daughter about t in the afternoon and [she] was baptized by the name of Pleasance." The above I have copied from a half column cutting from restion the identity of Pleasance Reeve (2) authorities on floods in the country, charging that he was defeated through vell's excellent essay in a field some- for baptism at one day old. The article of approximately fifteen hundred, and a

Many alleged examples of great old age have advocates the storage system himself, will take his seat, however, on the asneeded contribution to the general daughters have been baptized by the same name. psychology and phraseology of intel- and that the name of the younger has been counted as if he or she were the elder. It so happened It is reported that a deputation of four years before her and no daughter was there has come increasing expense.

American women have announced their born after her, so that in her case no such mischarges to the students. As the schools

Then follow some interesting particulars of Lady Smith, who at 23 married 'Mr., afterward Sir, James Edward Smith, first presi-1828; her constitution was without a blemish unsolicited publicity is written on the would be most undesirable that the Ameri- preserved almost all her teeth and her eyewas good enough to enable her to in the first period of the French Revolution.

As to memory. I can prove that I was born on September 19, 1850, and am consebeginning of 1857; important events for a termed it, a "living endowment W. FENWICK. ntry child. ARLINGTON, N. J., March 28

Increased Revenues and the Income Tax. TO THE PDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: One steresting phase of the present tariff and in

tax discussion seems to be studiously avoided in all public discussion. Every student of economics knows that the revenue to be derived from any article by means of an import duty will increase in direct proporon to any decrease in the rate of duty, the xceptions to this rule being only those articles

It is proposed to reduce tariff rates to a point where there will be increased consumption of imported articles, and I think all will admit that this will be the effect of any reduction in the ent rates.

Therefore we have this formula: "Decreased

Now, why do we see in the press allusions to "decreased revenue to be expected" and to "the difficulty the Treasury Department is having in estimating the extent of the decrease"? Can it be solely for the purpose of justifying the imposition of the income tax? Are the poli claus in Washington inspiring this hoodwinking the public? Is the temptation to finger the of the public? Is the temptation to finger the spending of the certain surplus of \$200,000,000 oo great for them to resist?

And if at the end of the first year there is a sur-plus of this amount, are they going to reduce the tariff still further and so increase this surplus the next year?

Where is the endless chain to end? In free NEW YORK, March 27.

April talks about Granada, Mrs. Beliamy Storer gives her views on Austrian affairs, C. L. Jones describes curfosities in voting regutrements, and Canon G. W. Douglas discusses Bergson. are articles on the wool duties, the commercia ourt, the income tax and socialism, while litera ture is cared for by a paper on realism, a com-parison of Thackeray with Fleiding, and two MODERN ENGLISH.

The Etymological Argument for Spelling is Fallacious.

respondent Mr. Edward S. Field, it is to be assumed that he knows something of what he is writing about. Therefore, one may perhaps be permitted to ask him to sist of commercial paper based on "goods" and "and in saving that our serving the serving that our serving that our serving that our serving that our serving the serving that our serving that our serving the serving tell us from what date he wishes to preserve moving in trade," and in saying that our the beauties to which he refers. His letter banks would welcome such a condition. But where is such commercial paper to be spelling based upon the belief that it is the found? As a matter of fact, we have not original spelling and therefore etymologi- in the United States any adequate volume cally correct. Now, if Mr. Field has read as intelligently as one who is competent to characterize himself as "by no means an old man but sufficiently conservative to sellers of the goods.

With forecasting and therefore etymological in the United States any adequate volume call and adequate vol alarmed" may be supposed to have With few exceptions all goods not sold for read, he must have some definite idea of with lew exceptions all goods not soid or read, he must have some definite idea of cash are sold on open book accounts, with the first in 449 A. D., the date commonly assigned to the arrival in Britain of the first their customers' formal balance sheets or the solution of the first their customers' formal balance sheets or hree keels of the Jutes, Angles and Saxons? statements, and can get no Knights of the Round Table, or later, say n the time of Alfred the Great, who in 860 to whom they sell, or from whom they buy won, as the story goes, "a beautiful book of | The things which our banks call "commercial Saxon poetry" because he was the first to commit its contents to memory? Or was it later still, perhaps when Geoffrey of warehouse receipts or other documents. Monmouth flourished? Perhaps Geoffrey's and of the notes of agents or subsidiary History of the Britons" was its basis, or corporations given to and often indorsed

based on what is known as the etymologica I the slightest relation to any "goods moving argument are by no means new. Some one in trade." Much less does such so-called ffered this argument to the late Professor would destroy the historical or etymological character of the English language. "Be-cause the Italians wrote flosofo are they ess aware than the English, who wrote philosopher,' that they have the Latin 'philosophus' and the Greek philosofes?" Muller asked in reply. Then he pointed out that as we write "fancy, "frenzy" and "frantic" with an "f" we should write "phantom" and "phrenology with the same initial letter

It was Muller's belief that a language that tolerates "vial" for "phial" need not shiver at "filosopher." This should be sufficient to convince Mr. Field that the etymological argument is based upon a very uncertain foundation. It is, in fact, as impossible to enumerate all the anomaetymologies has introduced, as it is absurd call a spelling which merely resembles the spelling of a dead language etymological etymological spelling must be phoas much as it is the sound of it that must lected to use a phonetic system there would have been no reliable data to guide us.

As the late Professor Skeat, the greatest authority on the subject of English etymology of his time, writing on this subject in his "Principles of English Etymology," per-

It is surely a national disgrace to us to find that the wildest arguments concerning English spell-ing and etymology are constantly being used ven by well educated persons, whose ignorance of early English pronunciation and of modern English phonetics is so complete that they have no suspicion whatever of the amazing worthlessness of their ludicrous utterances. As a matter of history, the notion of so-called "etymological" spelling is a purely modern one, a thing never freamed of in the earlier periods, but the fond invention of meddling pedants who frequently nade ludicrous mistakes in their needless zeal.

If this is not sufficient to convince your correspondent, may I be permitted to rec ommend him to "read, mark and inwardly digest" the Simplified Spelling Society's Bulletin No. III., which is devoted exclusively to the etymological argument, before he, like a spring flower, next blossoms into print? FRANK H. VIZETELLY.

NEW YORK, March 28.

### THE NORTHFIELD SCHOOLS. Annual Gifts Asked for the Education of Poor Boys and Girls.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The current year has been one of unusual en-couragement to us of Northfield, as the Mount Hermon Boys' School and Northfield growth and expansion. Thirty-three years ago these schools were established for poor "call loans on Stock Exchange collateral." boys and girls. Beginning with a very with Lady Smith (as the Times thoroughly humble equipment and a score of students investigated the case) or the fact or reason they now have an aggregate enrolment thousand applications are on file for another year, although the vacancies which will occur will enable us to accept less than a quarter of this number.

cess that we have our present problem, for that Lady Smith had a sister of the same name, but that sister was born and died more than work there has come increasing expense. were founded for the poor and have been maintained exclusively in their interests we cannot hope to conserve their presen character if our charges are increased the other hand, our endowment funds have not grown as rapidly as our equipment, so that we must seek help of friends in meeting within the last two or three years, had our needs. To this end I am making an earnest appeal at this time for help.

We shall require \$120,000 in excess of al read speeches in the Times. A letter written income from present endowment to meet thousands throughout the country who are Upon attaining her one hundredth year she in sympathy with the purpose and principles gave a dinner to all the aged poor in her of the Northfield work and would give geneighborhood and received from Queen erously to building up an endowment fund Victoria an autograph copy of "Our Life if their means permitted, but commitments to local objects make a prior claim upor be inclined. We believe, however, that if quently 62); years of age. I distinctly the matter were properly presented to their remember the birth of a sister who has attention these very friends might be willing turned 59, the passage of soldiers through to contribute an amount annually that would the town of my birth in England en route be equivalent to the income upon such a to the Crimea, which would be in 1854, and gift to our endowment fund, and thus conhe local peace rejoicing, not later than the stitute themselves, as the late Mr. Moody tribution, however small, will be gratefully accepted. Checks may be made payable to me or to the treasurer of the Northfield schools, Mr. Edwin M. Bulkley, 43 Exchange EAST NORTHFIELD, Mass., March 27.

> AN OLD BACHELOR'S GROWL. The "Peculiar Females" of setts Stir His Bile.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir. sachusetts for peculiar females! Certain Wellesley College girls pledge themselves to marry no one whose income is less than Other Bay State females are trying \$5,000. to have a law passed that will tax old bachelors \$5 & head, and now Mr. Bryan's idea of taxing incomes of over \$4,000 is finding favor with these women.

If all these ladies have their way in these atters it will be seen that the men of Massachusetts who are not already mar ried are going to have some kind of tax levied on them whatever their intentions or conditions may be. No escape for the poor fellows. It would be of interest to know how many of these Wellesley College rirls can say that their fathers had a salary of \$5,000 a year, or even \$2,000, when they

My idea is to tax all old maids who have received a reasonable proposal to marry and turned it down.

It seems to me that these Wellesley students are placing an inflated valuation on hemselves and striving to insure themselves against doing housework. The bingers of divorce are ease and idleness. BROOKLYN, March 27. AN OLD BACK.

Hand and Heart.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN - Sir: As a general proposition it would be safe to trust a man who naturally and habitually writes his signature in a clear, legible hand. STRACUSS, March 38.

"COMMERCIAL PAPER."

What It Is and What It Ought to Be-A Suggestion by Mr. Stuyvesant Fish. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: May TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: When man writing of English asks "Are we to

I be permitted a word on Mr. Frank Fayant's sound and timely letter about "Call Loan 

was it in the days of King Arthur's as to the day by day ebb and flow of their ights of the Round Table, or later, say business, the character and means of those must we look earlier, say to the "Anglo-by their principals, or some other form of Saxon Chronicle" for its genesis? Will Mr. what used to be called "pig upon pork," As Field kindly enlighten us? Till he fixes the a rule all such paper is made for round sums date all one can do is to generalize.

Objections to simplified forms of words

of money, in even thousands or hundreds, without any pretence of the note having in trade." Much less does such so-called "commercial paper" bind the goods and Möller, declaring that spelling reform both the buyer and the seller, if indeed Dubois to the Colombian Government there be any goods in the transaction discounting and purchasing by banks such notes simply constitute loans of so much capital, and in effect make the banks, for the time being, special partners in their porrowers' ventures, without imparting to the banks any knowledge of what those

The facts as to this so-called "commercial paper" are so universally known that many bankers make it a rule to prefer loans against

collateral of one kind or another. The custom of selling on open book acount was introduced many years ago by our great merchants and manufacturers. Their large capital and deservedly credit enabled them, without breaking prices, to grant terms as to time of payment and rate of interest, which forced their smaller competitors out of the trade in many if not all branches.

Such having been the conditions for many pho-word called "trusts and monopolies," they have naturally allowed conditions so favorable to them to continue.

If, as your correspondent truly and wisely "the crying need in this country is a Railroad. broad market for commercial promises to pay," those promises must be made in such extraordinary preferential rights in the form as experience in all countries and at Fanama Canal. all times has shown to be safe, and will, as e says, "be constantly liquidating themselves," through the conveyance, the conversion or the consumption of the goods Francisco Jose Urrutia, Minister of for which they were actually given.

can alone bring about the recreation of gennine commercial paper in any large quan- on February 15, 1913. Dr. Urrutia, on Federal Government can. My seggestion to accept the terms offered by the is and has been for an act of Congress which | United States. Minister Dubois then shall prevent any buyer being heard in the Federal courts to sue his seller for short weight, goods not up to sample other breach of contract unless he shall show that he had given his note or accept-ance for the value of the goods sold, and conversely shall prevent any seller from suing the buyer in those courts for nonpayment except upon the production of the

buyer's note or acceptance.

Concurrent action by New York and other States as to like suits in their own courts would probably follow the enactment of such a Federal statute

The limits of a letter to a newspaper pre many details and safeguards which should ered in their political aspect. form part of so far reaching an act of Con-. But until in this or some other way recreated, our banks can place no special principle that the United States reliance on the mass of such so-called "com-Seminary have shown such evidences of mercial paper" as they now hold which may such far reaching acts of internation

"call loans on Stock Exchange collateral." Even those wisest of financiers the Children of Israel in their Egyptian bondage payment of \$10,000,000 for an option were not able to "make bricks without build an interoceanic canal by the straw. STUTVESANT FISH.

NEW YORK, March 28.

Manners of Telegraph Messengers. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I should like to ask a question of superintendents of tele-

graph companies: Is there any reason why boys who deliver messages should not take off their caps on enter- her own territory: further, if the canal ing private offices, or why they should not prefix were not built within seventy-five years to a man's name when calling it out? A little instruction in the rudiments of politeness uld be of great advantage to those young NEW YORK. March 28.

Hair Lost Is Time Saved.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIT A bald head may not be quite as ornamental as some, but it a man with a heavy shock. Now, three minutes by itself, may not be such a terrible amount of time: but three minutes a day amounts to eighteen hours and a quarter a year, or two full working days. So I figure that, baldheaded, I get practically two days more out of every year than does jected, the discussion then had to my friend who is thickly thatche

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., March 27.

A Bureau of National Calamities.
TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: There should be, under maintenance by the national Government, a permanent relief fund available for instant application to the distresses consequent upon visitation by disaster of fire and flood, cyclone and earthquake. So unmeasured is the practical manifestation

that always after most generous distribution of the funds and stores poured in from every side cially to be worth \$16,446,000, would there is a surplus, the disposition of which is cially to be worth \$16,446,000, would be compared in that mator less embarrassing The problem of ways and means may be de- ter to \$32,446.000.

regular accession of funds could be provided a permanent endowment would be created to which surplusage of contributions would be returned, to bear interest and swell the fund in regular accession. If the canal be opened to ser-

els the current of nobly generous but necessarily impulsive and irregular outgiving The sympathy that ameliorates

NEW YORK, March 28.

Wild Women.
To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In esponse to an inquiry concerning the suf-

ragists and their treatment in England my ondon correspondent writes: "There is certain feeling among Englishmen to treat romen as spoiled children. This latter consideration probably explains the apathy self-contemptuous indifference which these wild women have been suffered by the public to go as far as they have E. T. W.

NEW YORK, March 28. Brothers.

One touch of nature makes us kin, A blow unites;

The flame that rages and devours

One hearth fire lights.

The swollen waters on whose crest Grim death appears Will open up the flood gates wide

Of all men's tears. MCLANDBURGE WILSON

# SAYS \$97,446,000 IS DUE COLOMBIA

Consul-General Gives Out U. S. Proposal as to Indemnity for Panama's Loss.

ARBITRATION IS REFUSED

Five Tenders Made, Including \$10,000,000 Payment for Option on Atrato Route.

Francisco Escobar, Consul-General of Colombia in New York, has made pub. lic the proposal made by James Dubois, the American Minister to Bogota, to the Colombian Government regarding the amount of the indemnity to which Colombia is entitled for the loss of Panama.

According to the statement Ministe Dubols estimates that Colombia is entitled to \$97,446,000 as compensation for material losses caused by the action of the United States. One of the documents made public is a memorandum submitted by Minister

another contains the minutes of the conference between the Colombian Minister of Foreign Affairs and the American Minister.
Mr. Dubols in his memorandum said that he had been directed by the United

States Government to lay five proposals before the Colombian Government These were: First, signature by Colombia of the

tripartite treaties. Second, payment of \$10,000,000 to Colombia for an option to build an interoceanic canal by the Atrato route and for the rights of establishing coaling

stations on the islands of St. Andreas and Providencia. Third, favorable intervention of the United States for the settlement of all questions pending between Colombia

and Panama. Fourth, submission to arbitration of the claim bearing upon the reversion ary right of Colombia in the Panama

Fifth, concession to Colombia of These proposals were discussed in full conference between Minister Dubois, for the United States,

I doubt if New York or any other State Foreign Affairs of Colombia, at the salon of the Foreign Minister in but have sometimes thought that the the part of his Government, declined withdrew them. At the outset Colombia rejected the

first proposal, which was that it should accept the Root-Cortez and the Cortez Arosemena treatles, although the United States earnestly hoped that the treaties would be accepted. Dr. Urrutia made the definite state

ment that Colombia desired to submit all questions pending between it and the United States to arbitration, to which Minister Dubois objected. He said th United States could not submit to at tration questions relating to the seclude my going into any discussion of the sion of Panama from Colombia. cons though it could agree to accept arbitration concerning judicial questions genuine commercial paper, such as supports lated to the secession. He gave it as never agree to submit to arbitration

In regard to the second build an interoceanic canal by the rate route and the right to establish coaling stations on St. Andreas and Providencia islands, Mr. Dubois pointed out that it would carry the following advantages for Colombia: If ever su a canal should be built Colombia would have a great interoceanic waterway in were not built within seventy-five years Colombia would have the enjoyment of the \$10,000,000 for that length of time.

which at 5 per cent would amount to \$47,500,000. When this proposal was rejected Mr. Dubois asked what would be Colombia' attitude if the \$10,000,000 were paid has its advantages. For example, it takes me without asking coaling station priv-three minutes less to comb my hair than it would ileges. Dr. Urrutia replied that the proposal as a whole was rejected.

The third proposal, regarding intervention by the United States between Colombia and Panama, having been rewith the reversionary rights in the Panama Railroad. It was in this d cussion that Mr. Dubois endeavored t show that Colombia would benefit nearly \$100,000,000. Mr. Dubois argued that Colombia ceded the Trans-Isthmian Railroad to the Panama Railroad Company in 1867 for ninety-nine years an annual payment of \$250.00 When Panama seceded this lease had public sympathy in times of such affliction as still sixty-four years to run, which at which is now harrowing the middle West paid, would amount to \$16,000,000. T paid, would amount to \$16,000,000. The Panama Railroad itself, reported offiraise the amount involved in that mat-

ferred for settlement in calmer moments, but it should by all means be taken up. Administration by an appropriate bureau of the Government expires in 1984, under which Colombia and the learning expensive, and if a ear interest and swell the fund in readiness for vice in the coming year the value of the Such an increment to the processes and machinery of bureaucracy could be nothing but universally benedicial. The occasion is more annuities would be \$17,500,000. Adding 446,000. Dr. Urrutia, insisting on arbi-

tration, declined these terms. The fifth proposal naturally fell with the fourth

According to the minutes of the cenference Mr. Dubols manifested his deep regret at the refusal of Colombia to enter into negotiations on the bases suggested and that Colombia should insist on an impossible arbitration. serted that Colombia was missing & happy opportunity to settle all questions pending between it and the United States before the opening of the Panama

Canal. Dr. Urrutia replied that his Government was unalterable in its insistence that all the differences between the two countries relating to the Panama matter should be submitted to arbitration, and this, he said, was the last word of his Government on the subject.

From the Topika Capital.

We note with pleasure that our friend life
dilberg has abandoned the uplift and will here of making & after devote himself to the business It won't hurt the uplift and it w But before he quit, lke discovered one trath worth recording. Those who are worth upiltums generally manage to do it themselves.